Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

# Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 TEHRAN 06509 240850Z
ACTION NEA-07

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 PM-03 NSC-05 INR-05 NSCE-00
CIAE-00 DODE-00 H-01 PRS-01 SSO-00 INRE-00 SP-02
/039 W
----------057181 240858Z /10
O 240820Z JUL 77
FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3700
INFO SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T TEHRAN 6509

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MASS IR
SUBJ: AWACS TESTIMONY

1. WE HAVE RECEIVED TEXTS OF ATHERTON AND VON MARBOD STATEMENTS USED IN AWACS TESTIMONY AND I FIND BOTH OF THEM EXCELLENT. I HAVE ASKED THAT COPIES OF THEM BE SENT TO KEY IRANIAN OFFICIALS FOR THEIR INFORMATION. I AM PLEASED THAT SEN HUMPHREY IS ARRANGING A "FACEOFF" HEARING AND HAVE ARRANGED THAT GEN SECORD WILL REMAIN IN WASHINGTON FOR THAT PURPOSE.

2. PRESS STORIES REACHING TEHRAN HAVE EMPHASIZED THAT DECISION TO SELL AWACS TO IRAN IS AN "EXCEPTION" TO ARMS RESTRAINT POLICY. IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT THE MAY 19 PRESS RELEASE ON THAT POLICY STATED IN PARA 3 THAT: "THESE CONTROLS WILL BE BINDING UNLESS EXTRAORDINARY CIRCUMSTANCES NECESSITATE A PRESIDENTIAL EXCEPTION, OR WHERE I DETERMINE THAT COUNTRIES FRIENDLY TO THE UNITED STATES MUST DEPEND ON ADVANCED WEAPONRY TO OFFSET QUANTITATIVE AND OTHER DISADVANTAGES IN ORDER TO MAINTAIN A REGIONAL BALANCE."

3. IN BRIEFING AMB ZAHEDI ON THIS POLICY DECISION,
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SECY VANCE AND I EMPHASIZED THAT IRAN WAS A COUNTRY, LIKE ISRAEL, WHICH FALLS INTO THE "REGIONAL BALANCE" CATEGORY. AS SUCH, IT CAN EXPECT TO COME UNDER THE "OR" PROVISION IN THE SUPPLY OF ADVANCED WEAPONRY AND NOT HAVE TO DEPEND ON A PRESIDENTIAL EXCEPTION FOR EACH TRANSFER.

4. I REALIZE THAT THE ACTUAL TEXT OF THE POLICY DECISION

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DIFFERS SOMEWHAT FROM THE PUBLIC STATEMENT AND THAT THIS MAY INTRODUCE SOME COMPLICATIONS FOR WITNESSES. HOWEVER, I THINK WE MUST BE CAREFUL TO PRESERVE THE INTEGRITY OF THE SECRETARY'S EXPLANATIONS TO ZAHEDI (AND HENCE TO THE SHAH). AT THE SAME TIME, I THINK WE SHOULD BE WARY OF SETTING PRECEDENTS WHICH WILL REQUIRE EVERY TRANSFER TO BE JUSTIFIED AS "AN EXCEPTION".
SULLIVAN

SECRET

NNN

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# Message Attributes

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**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a
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**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009
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**Disposition History:** n/a
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**Review Markings:**
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